2: Ramsay --i G-3 (no date) 1890 AJ4 W. Tibetans AJ4 121 114 128

PREFACE

No Dictionary has yet been published dealing with the language and customs of the several districts of Western Tibet, viz., Ladák, Nubra, Roopshoo, and Tángtsey, which are collectively spoken of by Europeans as "Ladák."

When first appointed here, I much felt the want of such a book, and, therefore, for my own use, commenced to compile notes and a vocabulary, which have, during the several years which have since passed, expanded to such dimensions that I last year asked the Government of India to print them. Recently the Government of India has kindly consented to do so.

The notes and vocabulary, which have been revised and much enlarged, are now published under the title of "Western Tibet." The title "Ladák" would for some reasons have been preferable had it not already been appropriated by General Cunningham for an excellent book published by him in 1854.

The present work was not originally intended for the Press, and it has no pretension to scholarly merit: indeed, in cases where the local idea is opposed to the correct classical view, the latter has been ignored, my object being to record only local ideas, customs, pronunciation, etc.

To my successors in office, and to any Europeans who may have occasion to visit this part of the world, I hope that "Western Tibet" may be useful, as supplying a practical guide to the language and customs of the country.

For the general public it is not intended.

H. RAMSAY, Captain,
British Joint-Commissioner, Ladák.

LEH:
20th June 1890.

121 well known and have not been extensively
114 studied or recorded. In a book by Pro-
171 fessor Westermark, *"The History of Human Marriage,"* which is possibly the best study of this question throughout the world, covering cases of differing family organization, it is only mentioned that polyandry exists in America to some extent, mostly in South America on the coast of Ecuador and also in British and Dutch Guiana; that it exists on the North American continent among some of the American Indian aborigines and among the Eskimos; and that it also occurs in Tibet, in India, mostly in the Himalayas, but also in southwest India, in the Melanesian archipelago, and among some primitive peoples of the Siberian plains. In Africa, it is also known in parts of Uganda and in some tribes of Southeast Africa among the Hottentots.

121 Thus, I had quite a large choice of loca-
114 tions to study polyandrous peoples. I
128 chose India and Tibet because, from the abovementioned book, I realized that the Tibetians had perhaps the best-preserved and most efficiently organized polyandry of them all, and that in India there seemed to be a number of unrecorded polyandrous peoples which were worth a trip to study on the spot. Then, too, both Tibet and India seemed to be healthful places for an anthropologist to work. In 1937, my wife and I decided to go out there and look for the polyandrous peoples. We visited the Tibetans for eight months in 1938, the Todas in southern India for six months in the summer of 1939, and the Tiyas on the southwest coast of India, in Malabar, for the remaining time, which was roughly about a month, until World War II broke out and we had to interrupt our activities. I shall present my findings in the same order, and end with a synopsis of the whole, giving you my conclusions as to, first, the psychoanalytical results of the investigation and, second, the anthropological results as well.

121 *Tibetan Polyandry.* We visited the
101 western part of Tibet because, having